

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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R 101530Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8638

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AU

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE US TRADE RESTRICTIONS ON SPECIALITY STEELS

1. AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR MARTINS CALLED ON MISSION MARCH 10 ON INSTRUCTIONS TO EXPRESS AUSTRIAN CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE US IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON SPECIALITY STEELS. HE NOTED AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WOULD PROBABLY BE MAKING SIMILAR DEMARCHE BUT IN VIEW IMPORTANCE GOA ATTACHES TO MATTER HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS DO LIKEWISE HERE. HE STATED IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON STEEL WOULD HAVE SERIOUS DIRECT IMPACT ON IMPORTANT AUSTRIAN EXPORT. FURTHERMORE, AUSTRIA IS CONCERNED THAT ACTION ON STEEL MIGHT BE PRECEDENT FOR OTHER PRODUCTS AND COULD TOUCH OFF CHAIN REACTION. HE ALSO MADE POINT THAT PRINCIPAL AUSTRIAN PRODUCER (VEREINIGTE EDELSTAHL WAS NOT RECEIVING ANY PARTICULAR BENEFITS OR SUBSIDIES FROM GOA. IN CONCLUSION HE ASKED UNDER WHICH GATT ARTICLE US ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN.

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2. WE RESPONDED USG WELL AWARE OF FOREIGN CONCERNS
AND WOULD BE GIVING THEM DUE ACCOUNT IN REACHING DECISION.
WE UNDERTOOK TO REPORT HIS DEMARCHE TO WASHINGTON.
CONCERNING POINT ON VEREINIGTE EDELSTAHL, WE INDICATED
UNDERSTANDING THAT ITC FINDING WAS NOT BASED ON DUMPING
OR SUBSIDY GROUNDS BUT RELATED TO EFFECT OF INCREASED
IMPORTS ON US INDUSTRY. WE CONCLUDED THAT WE FELT
IT WOULD PREMATURE TO DISCUSS WHICH GATT ARTICLE
WAS INVOLVED SINCE NO ACTION HAD BEEN DECIDED OR TAKEN
AS YET, BUT WE ASSUMED THAT ARTICLE XIX WAS MOST
DIRECTLY RELEVANT. DALE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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